

NSC BRIEFING

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2 October 1956

ARAB "AID" FOR JORDAN

- I. Despite Jordan's calls for help from Iraq and other Arab states, it now appears that Jordan will get very little in the way of concrete assistance against Israel in the near future.
 - A. The Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri Said, has stated that he is under great pressure to give aid to Jordan.
 1. Nuri, has talked of sending an Iraqi "guard force" to Jordan, to keep watch over any military supply-dumps Iraq might establish.
 2. This would be done, however, only if Britain and the US gave the move material and moral support.
 - B. On 1 October, the Iraqi chief-of-staff stated that no Iraqi troops would be sent to Jordan until "joint planning" is completed.
 1. This in effect postpones any Iraqi troop movement indefinitely, since the proposed "joint planning" will take many weeks.
 - C. After initial reports that any Iraqi troop movement to Jordan would be considered a hostile act by Israel, the ~~Israeli~~ Prime Minister Ben Gurion has now stated that Israel will not respond to such a move so long as Iraqi troops stay east of the Jordan river.
- II. Egypt, meanwhile, has rushed an air shipment of small-arms to Amman, thereby reaping a major propaganda benefit from the tense situation.
 - A. Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria, thusfar, have extended Jordan only sympathy.

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REF ID: A66100

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3 OCTOBER 1956

ARAB "AID" FOR JORDAN

1. Despite Jordan's calls for help from Iraq and other Arab States in the past week, it now appears that Jordan will get very little in the way of concrete assistance against Israel in the near future.

A. The Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri Said, has stated that he is under great pressure to give aid to Jordan.

1. Nuri has talked of sending an Iraqi "guard force" to Jordan, to keep watch over any military supply-dumps Iraq might establish there.

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2. This would be done, however, only if Britain and the US gave the move material and moral support.
- B. On 1 October, the Iraqi chief-of-staff stated that no Iraqi troops would be sent to Jordan until "joint planning" is completed.
 1. This in effect postpones any Iraqi troop movement indefinitely, since the proposed "joint planning" will take many weeks.
- C. Initially, we had reports that the Israeli government would consider any such Iraqi troop movement to Jordan as an armistic violation and a hostile act.

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1. However, Prime Minister Ben Gurion has now stated that Israel would not regard such a move as an armistice breach so long as Iraqi troops stayed east of the Jordan river.

ii Egypt, meanwhile, has rushed an air shipment of about 80 tons of small-arms to Amman, thereby reaping a major propaganda benefit from the tense situation.

A. Thusfar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria have extended Jordan only sympathy.